

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

770 L STREET, SUITE 1000
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 324-2726
(916) 324-5597 FAX
<http://www.cmac.ca.gov>

**CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

State Capitol, Room 127
Sacramento, CA

Minutes of Meeting
March 13, 2008

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Cathie Bennett Warner, Chair
Michele Burton, M.P.H.
Wilma Chan
Vicki Marti
Nancy McFadden
John Longville

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT**

Toby Douglas, Department of Health Care Services
John Fitzpatrick II, Department of Finance

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT**CMAC STAFF PRESENT**

J. Keith Berger, Executive Director
Paul Cerles
Tacia Carroll
Denise DeTrano
Holland Golec
Mark Klobberdanz
Katie Knudson
Genaro Rodriguez
Becky Swol
Mike Tagupa
Mervin Tamai
Karen Thalhammer

I. Call to Order

The March 13, 2008 open session meeting of the California Medical Assistance Commission (CMAC) was called to order by Chair Cathie Bennett Warner. A quorum was present.

II. Approval of Minutes

The February 28, 2008 meeting minutes were approved as prepared by CMAC staff.

III. Executive Director's Report

Keith Berger, Executive Director, began his report by reminding the Commissioners that CMAC's current meeting schedule only extends through June of this year and that staff has provided the Commissioners with a set of proposed dates for CMAC meetings for the next fiscal year, July 2008 through June 2009. Based on the Commissioners' review and comments staff has revised a couple of the dates. He recommended that the Commissioners approve this final schedule of meeting dates. The Commission unanimously approved the 2008-09 meeting schedule.

Mr. Berger noted that if future meeting dates need to be changed at some time during the year, the Chair or the Commission as a whole has the authority to make that decision as long as proper notice is given to the public.

Now that the schedule has been approved, Mr. Berger informed the public that it will be placed on the CMAC website and copies will be available at future CMAC meetings.

Mr. Berger reported that CMAC staff has confirmed with the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) that they will attend CMAC's April 24 meeting to provide an update on the seismic safety program during open session. There have been several significant changes over the past year, both to the methodology used to assess hospitals and the availability of options for hospitals to request delays in certain situations. Mr. Berger commented that it should be an interesting and educational presentation. The California Hospital Association was also invited to that meeting to provide comments they may have on seismic safety issues.

In addition, Mr. Berger noted that at the previous CMAC meeting, he mentioned that the California Children's Hospital Association (CCHA) asked to appear before the Commission in open session at the March 27 meeting to provide an update on the issues and challenges facing the children's hospitals in California. He said that meeting date has been confirmed with CCHA so they will be making a presentation at the next CMAC meeting.

As Mr. Berger reported at a previous CMAC meeting, CMAC had to extend its Distressed Hospital Fund (DHF) process to allow time for a full assessment and discussion of the many proposals CMAC received. CMAC's original schedule had targeted today's meeting for final action by CMAC on DHF amendments, but that has now been moved to the March 27 meeting. To keep the process moving forward as quickly as possible to meet that new target date, CMAC has scheduled another extended discussion during today's closed session.

Given that important agenda item, Mr. Berger closed his report today by noting that there are 10 contracts and amendments before the Commissioners for review and action in closed session today, several other updates and discussions regarding current hospital and managed care rate negotiations as well as the continuing discussions regarding the DHF negotiations.

IV. Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Report

Toby Douglas, DHCS, reported that there was an Assembly Health Committee hearing after the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) recommendations for the budget proposal were released. The Legislature had recently enacted a 10 percent reduction to the Medi-Cal provider payments, which the Governor signed, and which will be implemented effective July 1, 2008. Mr. Douglas noted that DHCS will be sending providers any changes made later this month.

In response to a question raised by Commissioner Chan, Mr. Douglas indicated that regardless of when the budget is signed, these Medi-Cal reductions will go into effect July 1.

V. New Business/Public Comments/Adjournment

There being no further new business and no comments from the public, Chair Cathie Bennett Warner recessed the open session. Chair Cathie Bennett Warner opened the closed session and, after closed session items were addressed, adjourned the closed session, at which time the Commission reconvened in open session. Chair Cathie Bennett Warner announced that the Commission had taken action on managed care contracts and amendments in closed session. The open session was then adjourned.